

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, JA

SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE OF FONMIN KOSAKA AT 31ST UNGA

SUMMARY: GOJ HAS DECIDED THAT NEWLY-APPOINTED FOREIGN MINISTER ZENTARO KOSAKA WILL ATTEND FIRST WEEK OF UNGA SESSION DESPITE CONFLICT WITH DIET INTERPELLATION. IN ADDITION TO MAKING "RATHER ABSTRACT" SPEECH IN GENERAL DEBATE, KOSAKA IS EXPECTED TO MEET WITH SECSTATE, GROMYKO, CHIAO KUAN-HUA AND A FULL SCHEDULE OF OTHER LEADERS. HIS ACTIVITY WILL BE CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY JAPANESE PRESS. END SUMMARY.

1. MOFA POLDIVDIR KOBAYASHI TOLD EMBOFF SEPTEMBER 22 THAT PM MIKI AND FONMIN KOSAKA DECIDED EARLIER SAME DAY THAT KOSAKA WILL ATTEND FIRST WEEK OF 31ST UNGA EVEN THOUGH DIET GENERAL INTERPELLATION LIKELY TO TAKE PLACE DURING SAME PERIOD. MIKI, OR POSSIBLY DEPPRIMIN FUKUDA, WILL BE DESIGNATED ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER IN ORDER TO ANSWER DIETMEN'S FOREIGN POLICY-CONNECTED QUESTIONS DURING KOSAKA'S ABSENCE. DECISION IMPLIES THAT FONOFF HAS WON INFORMAL CONSENT OF OPPOSITION PARTIES TO KOSAKA'S ABSENCE IN NEW YORK DURING INTERPELLATION, BY ARGUING IMPORTANCE OF MINISTERIAL-LEVEL
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DIPLOMACY AT START OF UNGA SESSION.

2. KOBAYASHI AGREED THAT KOSAKA'S UNGA GENERAL DEBATE SPEECH WILL BE CLOSELY MONITORED BY JAPANESE MEDIA FOR CLUES TO NEW FONMIN'S POSITION ON MAJOR DIPLOMATIC QUESTIONS. SPEECH ORIGINALLY DRAFTED FOR FORMER FONMIN MIYAZAWA HAS BEEN EXTENSIVELY REWRITTEN; PRESENT "7THEYKOKT" BEARS IMPRINT OF ALL BUREAU DIRECTORS AND IS "VERY ABSTRACT." EMBASSY TOLD THAT MIYAZAWA INTENDED UNUSUALLY POINTED (FOR JAPAN) SPEECH WITH EMPHASIS ON "PEACE DIPLOMACY"--INCLUDING CALL FOR LID ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRADE--AND ON UN ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY REFORM. THESE THEMES REMAIN, SAID KOBAYASHI, BUT MUCH DILUTED. MOST NOTABLE ADDITION BY KOSAKA, KOBAYASHI SAID, WAS INCLUSION OF ADMONITION AGAINST "BIG POWERS FORCING THEIR POLICIES ON SMALLER NATIONS." EARLIER KOSAKA DRAFT DECLARED EXPLICIT JAPANESE "OPPOSITION TO HEGEMONY." KOBAYASHI IMPLIED THAT KOSAKA, PERSONALLY INCLINED TOWARD PEKING, PREFERRED LATTER LANGUAGE BUT WAS AT LENGTH PERSUADED THAT IT WAS AN EGREGIOUS IRRITANT TO MOSCOW.

3. JAPANESE PRESS WILL IN ADDITION PAY GREAT ATTENTION TO KOSAKA MEETINGS WITH SECSTATE, WITH SOVIET FONMIN GROMYKO (EXPECTED TO BE ICY IN VIEW MIG-25 INCIDENT), AND WITH PRC FONMIN CHIAO KUAN-HUA (FONOFF NOT YET SURE CHIAO WILL BE AT UNGA, HOWEVER). KOBAYASHI MENTIONED THAT JUN STILL WAITING FOR REPLY FROM USUN RE SCHEDULING OF KOSAKA MEETING WITH SECRETARY.

4. INCIDENTALLY, IN BREAK WITH TRADITION, KOSAKA WILL SPURN JAL TO SPEED TO AND FROM NEW YORK ON PAN AMERICAN, ONLY CARRIER WITH NON-STOP FLIGHT. HE WILL ARRIVE NEW YORK ON EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 25, AND IS EXPECTED TO LEAVE FOR TOKYO ON SEPTEMBER 30.
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